



State Representative Mary Ann Carson

LOCAL ISSUES

Candlewood Lake

Public Act 06-70 will allow the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to enhance public safety on Connecticut waterways, including Candlewood Lake.

By law, DEP can supplement the state's regular conservation officer force by appointing department employees as special conservation officers or as patrolman. The bill allows the commissioner to additionally supplement the force with any sworn law enforcement officer of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service.

It also allows DEP to appoint any lake patrolman as a special conservation officer, solely to enforce boating laws within the patrolman's jurisdiction, provided he/she has received Police Officer Standards Training.

Contamination Notification

Public Act 06-81 will tighten pollution notice requirements by requiring sellers of homes who are or will be served by well water to notify prospective buyers of any water test results performed for volatile organic compounds.

By law, home sellers must disclose to prospective purchasers information concerning certain environmental matters, such as the presence of lead and radon. The new law also sets deadlines for DEP to notify the property owner, local health director, and other state and local officials of findings of excessive contaminant levels. The need for improved notification has been brought to light in our region.



Rep. Carson (right) meets in the House Chamber with fellow legislators and the family of former New Fairfield Rep. William Sullivan, who passed away in February 2006. Rep. Carson led Sullivan's memorial remarks in the House that day, noting his many accomplishments and dedication to public service in New Fairfield and Danbury.



State Representative

MARY ANN CARSON

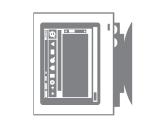
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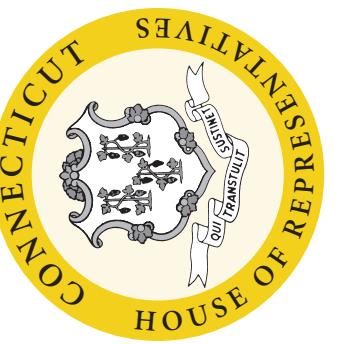
Representative Mary Ann Carson
Room 4200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

TELEPHONE:
(800) 842-1423

E-MAIL:
maryann.carson@housegop.ct.gov



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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
MARY ANN CARSON
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Rep. Carson (on right) and fellow Rep. Janice Giegler and Sen. David Cappiello (on left) meet with three New Fairfield High School students and the family of late Marine Gunnery Sergeant Phillip Jordan, of Enfield. Sgt. Jordan was the first Connecticut resident killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The students presented a commemorative flag and donations to be used toward the education of Jordan's son, Tyler, which they amassed during a town-wide collection in New Fairfield.

SENIORS

Homecare Oversight

Public Act 06-187 will help protect the interests of senior citizens by requiring companies providing homemaker or companion services to obtain a certificate of registration from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). It also gives DCP authority to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue the registration or take other disciplinary measures in response to violations of the bill.

Under the bill, beginning October 2006, these agencies must require new employees to undergo comprehensive background checks and take specified factors into account when making employment decisions based on the checks. Homecare agencies must also provide clients with written individualized contracts or service plans identifying the services' scope, type, frequency, and duration. In addition, agencies entering into a contract with a client's family must detail compensation.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Reducing Hospital Infections

Public Act 06-142 creates a committee responsible for developing, operating, and monitoring a mandatory reporting system for healthcare associated infections. The act requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to implement the committee's recommendations concerning a mandatory reporting system for infections and standardized data reporting measures. In addition, a report must be posted on the DPH website and be available to the public. Current Connecticut law already requires hospitals to report hospital acquired infections that result in death or serious injury as part of the quality of care/adverse event reporting law.

Living Will

Public Act 06-195 allows for more effective utilization of living wills, including expanding their scope. The legislation specifically expands the scope of a living will from covering only decisions involving life support to include any aspect of health care.

TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

\$2.3 Billion Package

Public Act 06-136 will provide for improvements to highways and mass transit in all corners of the state, allocating \$2.3 billion over a 10-year period. Projects to be funded in Western Connecticut include the completion of the engineering and design phase of widening Interstate 84 between Waterbury and Danbury. It will also fund upgrades to rail cars serving the Danbury branch.

Other projects that will be funded include: the restoration of commuter rail service between New Haven and Springfield, MA; the renovation of rail cars for use on Shore Line East, the New Haven-Springfield Line and branch lines and dredging the state's commercial ports. It is important to note the bill does not include previous proposals for increasing the state gasoline tax or bringing back highway tolls. The package will be funded through revenue bonds.



PUBLIC SAFETY

New Law Against Human Trafficking

Public Act 06-43 creates a felony crime of trafficking in persons. It applies to those who coerce others to engage in prostitution or work. It authorizes the state to charge traffickers with racketeering and to seize property related to the crime when there is a pattern of such activity. The bill makes trafficking in persons a class B felony, punishable for up to 20 years imprisonment, up to a 15,000 fine, or both. It also appropriates \$75,000 each for training programs and witness protection services and \$25,000 for shelter and victim services.

Prohibiting Underage Drinking

Public Act 06-112 makes it illegal for a minor to possess alcohol anywhere, rather than only in public places. The new law specifies that a minor may only possess alcohol on private property if accompanied by a parent, guardian, or spouse over age 21. This act also makes it illegal for someone who possesses or controls private property to knowingly permit a minor to illegally possess alcohol on the property. The new law makes a first offense an infraction and subsequent offenses subject to up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

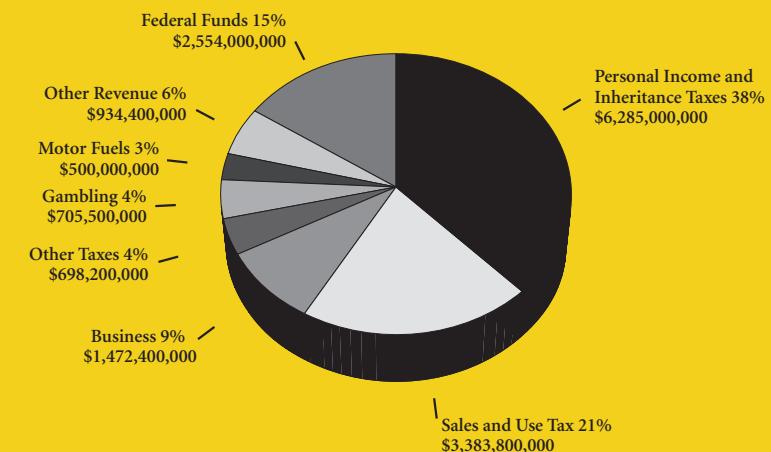
Protection Against Identity Theft

Public Act 06-60 bans the use of scanners and reencoders to create fake credit cards. This is an ever increasing problem throughout the country and the bill is a positive step toward protecting our residents. Penalties for violating the new law include up to 10 years imprisonment, fines of up to \$10,000 or both.

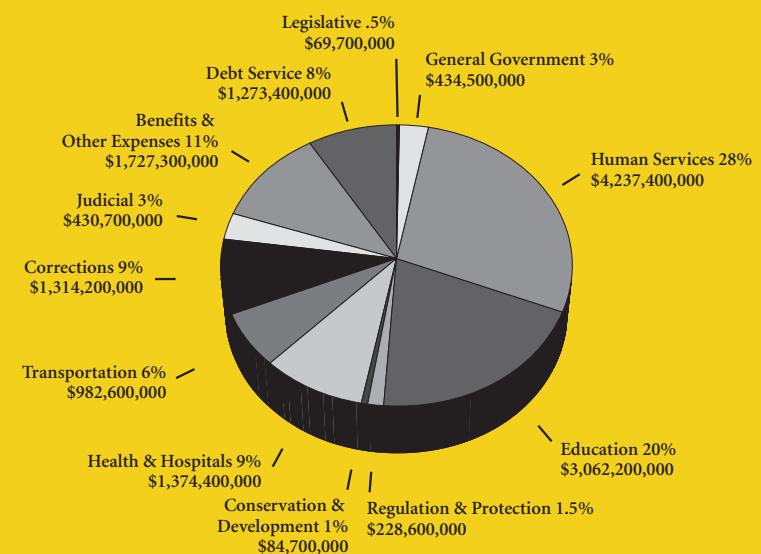
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



**In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.*